

REMARKS

Pursuant to a telephone interview conducted on April 27, 2005 between the undersigned attorney and Examiner Hung Q. Pham regarding the above-identified patent application, it was agreed that Applicants would submit a Supplemental Amendment to address potential problems under 35 USC 101. Applicants' attorney and Examiner Pham agreed to the amendment language, inserting "computer-implemented" in the preamble of each method claim, and agreed that the amendments do not affect the scope of the claims. The Supplemental Amendment was transmitted on April 27, 2005 via fax to (571) 273-0053 in accordance with the instructions of the Examiner. Applicants include a copy of the Supplemental Amendment, which was apparently not entered prior to generation of the outstanding Office Action dated May 18, 2005.

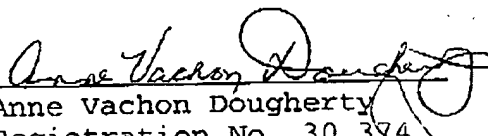
In response to the Office Action of May 18, 2005, Applicants are canceling the non-allowed claims, with no prejudice to future prosecution of those claims in a continuation application. By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have amended allowable Claim 14 to place it in condition for allowance. Claim 14 is in independent form, including all of the limitations of Claims 12 and 13, from JP920000043US1

which it previously depended. In addition, the language taken from Claim 13 has been amended to address the 112 concerns raised by the Examiner. Similarly amendments have been made to Claim 16, placing it in independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 15, from which it formerly depended, as well as the allowable limitations from Claim 14. The 112 deficiency of Claim 16 has also been addressed.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and allowance of the claims is, accordingly, requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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